

University of Toronto Faculty of Music

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Robin Engelman, director

Percussive Arts Society
International Convention



Columbus, Ohio



November 13, 1993

PROGRAM

Variations on a Ghanaian Theme (1981)

Daniel Levitan

Richard Moore, David Luginbühl, Jurij Konje

Rain Tree (1981)

Toru Takemitsu

Ryan Scott, Christine Huang, Thomas Brett

Turning Point (1993)

Bob Becker

Jon Saulnier, Thomas Brett, David Luginbühl
Debbie Waugh, Christine Huang

Portrait of a Chinese Temple (1993)

Che-Ming Tsai

Richard Moore, Christine Huang, Thomas Brett
Ryan Scott, Che-Ming Tsai

Mudra (1990)

Bob Becker

Morris Palter, Michael Chu, Thomas Brett, Ryan Scott
Richard Moore, solo drum

FIRST CONSTRUCTION (IN METAL) (1939)

John Cage

Che-Ming Tsai, Debbie Waugh, Thomas Brett,
Morris Palter, Jon Saulnier, Christine Huang, Ryan Scott



Program Notes

Rain Tree

Toru Takemitsu

"It has been named the *rain tree*; for its abundant foliage continues to let fall rain drops collected from last night's shower until well after the following midday. It's hundreds of thousands of tiny leaves - finger like - store up moisture while other trees dry up at once. What an ingenious tree, isn't it?"

- quoted from "Atama noii, Ame noki,"
a novel by Kanzaburo Oé

Turning Point

Bob Becker

Turning Point was composed for the NEXUS ensemble in January, 1993. It is scored for marimba, vibraphone, songbells, glockenspiel, crotales and piano. The title is a reference both to the dance-like imagery that was visualized for the piece, and to the continual use of chromatic trill figures in the music.

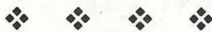
- Bob Becker

Portrait of a Chinese Temple

Che-Ming Tsai

I composed this piece from my memories of Chinese temples.
-- The recitations of Buddhist monks and the sound of a temple block contrasted with the song of the wind and the sound of leaves falling down to the earth.-- These memories, somewhat solemn and peaceful, lead to great respect rising in my heart.

- Che-Ming Tsai



Mudra

Bob Becker

Bob Becker is a member of Toronto's NEXUS and the Steve Reich Ensemble. In 1990 *Mudra* won the National Arts Centre Award for "Best Collaboration between Composer and Choreographer." This performance is an edited version for instrumental ensemble alone. Indian hand drum rhythms have been transcribed to fit the western snare drum technique used in the solo drum part.

... The term mudra refers in general to the narrative use of torso, facial, hand and arm gestures in many Indian dance forms. ...

- Bob Becker

FIRST CONSTRUCTION (IN METAL)

John Cage

This is a master work of rhythm and orchestration by John Cage, who died last year. By writing fifteen works for percussion between 1935 and 1941, Cage almost single-handedly established the acceptance of the percussion ensemble in the western world. *FIRST CONSTRUCTION* is a complex and strangely melancholic work with brilliant timbres. It is one of three constructions written between 1939 and 1941 for Cage's own percussion ensemble.

I remain a percussion composer whether I write for percussion instruments or not. That is, my work is never based structurally on frequency, but rather on duration considerations.

- John Cage (1986)





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With approximately 430 undergraduate students and 70 graduate students, the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto is a relatively small school fostering a close association between students and teachers. It is large enough however, to offer extraordinary opportunities for learning and experiencing music.

Percussion students at the University of Toronto can participate in ethnomusicology programs (Indonesian gamelan, African drumming and dance ensembles) jazz band, symphony and opera orchestras, concert band and contemporary and percussion ensembles. NEXUS is one of the Faculty of Music's resident ensembles.

The Faculty's teaching staff has an international reputation for excellence in scholarship, composition and performance. Students from around the world study at the Faculty and our graduates occupy positions in major musical organizations throughout the world.

The Edward Johnson Building, home of the Faculty of Music, is located on the main campus of the University of Toronto in downtown Toronto. The Faculty is an integral part of Toronto's cultural life and is close to the city's many libraries, concert halls, galleries, museums and theaters.